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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 229
By Herron

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Coach Dale Ray and the 1996-1997 Sharon High School boys' basketball team on reaching the quarterfinals of the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Class A State Tournament.

WHEREAS, the 1996-1997 Sharon High School boys' basketball team set an early season goal of reaching the prestigious Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Class A State Tournament, a goal that seemed impossible given the difficulties that they had to overcome, BUT ONE THAT THEY ACHIEVED through adroit play and fierce determination; and

WHEREAS, despite an extremely difficult schedule, Sharon fought hard and won a coveted spot in the Region 7-A Tournament; and

WHEREAS, in the first game of Regional play, this valiant squad faced number-one seed West Carroll, and stunned the War Eagles with an impressive 41-28 upset victory; and

WHEREAS, in the semifinals, Sharon beguiled the South Fulton Red Devils 53-43; and

WHEREAS, by playing inspired ball, this tremendously talented team won the Region 7-A title game with a resounding victory, stinging the Greenfield Yellow Jackets 60-52; and

WHEREAS, in the crucial substate match, the Eagles soared high, defeating Middleton 44-43, before an enthusiastic home crowd; and

WHEREAS, this year was the first time that Sharon had reached the state tournament; and

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WHEREAS, highly regarded Coach Dale Ray has carefully molded the team members to be winners both on the basketball court and in the court of life. His capable Assistant Coaches were Larry Ingle and Stephanie Black; and

WHEREAS, the members of this exemplary team were: seniors guard Cedric Jones, forward Josh Jones, guard Justin Freeman, forward Colby Jones, forward Sharkei Cavitt and center Lagantrie Hickman; juniors forward Kevin Jones, Damon McDonald, forward Jeremy Hickman and forward Joseph Clark; and sophomores guard Nathan Tidwell, guard Jeremy Wilson, guard Josh Dodson and center Corey Ramsey; and

WHEREAS, the hard-working managers were Adam McCollum and Jerome Allen and the excellent statisticians were Crystal Capps and Marla Dunlap; and

WHEREAS, Principal Don Capps has strongly supported the team; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to specially recognize a team who made their final season their best ever; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor and congratulate Coach Dale Ray and the 1996-1997 Sharon High School boys' basketball team and wish them well in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation to the school and to each person named above, with this final clause omitted from such copies.